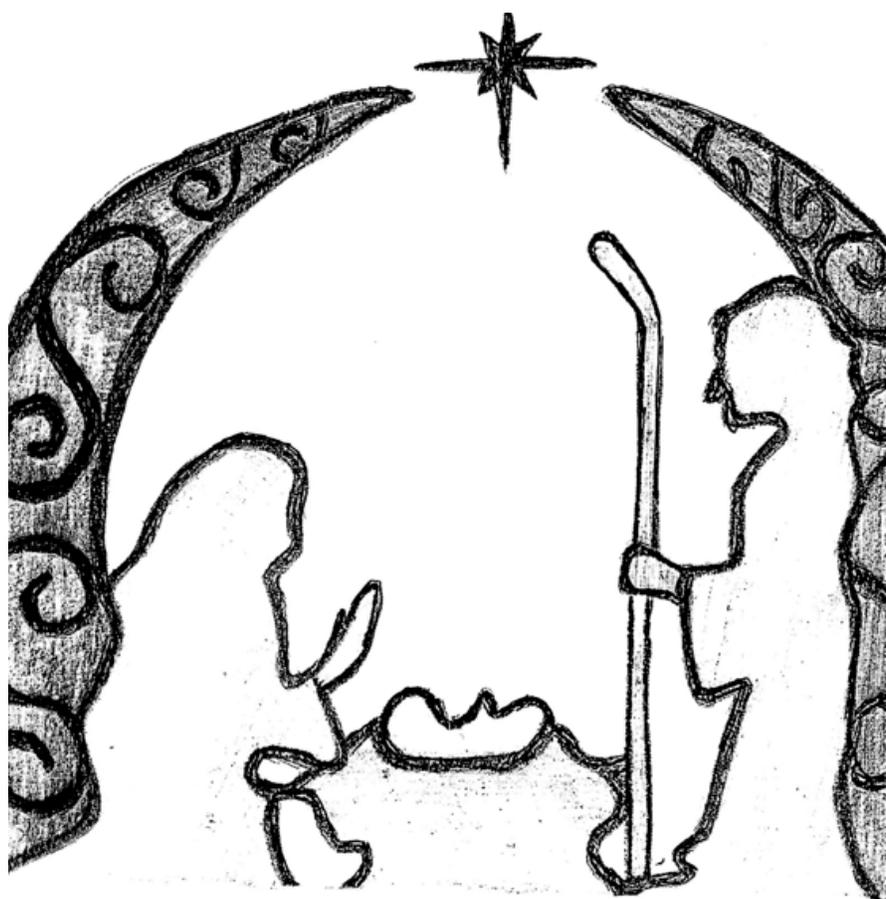


The Baby Born In A Stable

Written by Janic Kramer, Arch book 1965, CPH

Born on Christmas Morn

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Order of Service

Pre-Service Music

As We Gather

As we prepare for worship, pray that the sounds of hymns, God's Word and children's voices will draw you to God's amazing grace in a manger—Jesus—and that all of the blessings he brings will resonate in your heart.

Processional Hymn ... *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Invocation and Call to Worship (with selections from Luke 2)

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Hear the sound of the angels declaring, "Fear not, for behold, I bring good news of great joy that will be for all people."

C **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound!**

P Hear the announcement of God's promise delivered: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

C **Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound!**

P Hear the song of angels and mankind together praising God:

C **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"**

Prayer of the Day

P Heavenly Father, tune our hearts and open our eyes to receive the message proclaimed by the children whom you sent to bring us the joyous message of Jesus' birth and the amazing gifts he brings. Give us new insight into the Christmas story and inspire us to worship with a sense of awe and with great joy. Amen.

A Meditation

Song by Congregation ... *Lift up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates*

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he doth bring; therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

Come see the baby, meek and small, who gives amazing grace to all.
The Child who in a manger cries has pow'r to open ev'ry eye
To see the glory of the Lord and all the love that he outpoured.
To Christ the Savior raise your grateful hymns of praise.

Recitation by Children

Carson

Now over two thousand years ago
The emperor decreed
That all the world must be enrolled
Let no one fail to heed.

The world was quite mixed up, you see
And no one seemed to know:
How many people were there?
And What taxes did they owe?

Throughout the earth the rich,
The poor, the young, the old,
All traveled to their towns of birth
So they could be enrolled.

Cayleigh

And so it was, to Bethlehem
A man named Joseph went
To list his name and see how much
He owed the government.

Beside him Mary traveled, too.
Not once did she protest
How long and hard the trip had been,
How much she needed rest.

Song by Children ... *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.

Recitation by Children

Amelia

In Bethlehem they found the inn
And knocked upon the door.
“My rooms are filled!: the owner yelled,
“I haven’t any more!”

When Joseph told him quietly
Of gentle Mary’s plight:
That she would have a baby soon,
Perhaps that very night,

The owner stood in thought and rubbed
His bushy bearded jaw,
“I’ll let you have the stable, then.
You’ll have to sleep on straw.”

Sofia

So Joseph and his wife unpacked
And settled down to rest
Not caring that they couldn’t have
The biggest and the best.

They ate their supper slowly as
They watched the sun go down,
And yawned as darkness fell at last
Upon the little town.

Song by Congregation ... *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

“Fear not,” then said the angel, “let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior, the true and only light,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan’s pow’r and might.”
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Recitation by Children

Carson

The night was silent. Everyone
It seemed, was fast asleep
Except for shepherds in the fields
Who had to watch their sheep.

They huddled close and whispered low
To keep themselves awake.
Then suddenly their eyes grew wide—
Their knees began to shake.

For there, above them in the sky,
An angel did appear.
The glory of the Lord shone down,
And they were filled with fear.

Cayleigh

The angel spoke: *"Fear not! Behold,
I bring you news of joy!
In Bethlehem this very night
Was born a baby boy*

*Who is the Savior, Christ the Lord:
He'll win over death and sin.
Upon a manger bed He lies,
behind a lowly inn."*

And suddenly a multitude
Of angels filled the sky,
Their voices glorifying God
And praising Him on high!

And *"Peace on earth, good will to men!"*
Resounded through the air—
It seemed there must have been at least
A million angels there!

Song by Congregation ... *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Recitation by Children

Amelia

No longer did the shepherds quake
With anxious fear and dread,
And when the angels disappeared
The shepherds quickly said:

"Oh, let us go to Bethlehem
And find the manger bed!"
And off across the fields they ran—
To Bethlehem they sped!

The manger wasn't hard to find,
And there the shepherds' eyes
Fell on a sight that filled their hearts
With wonder and surprise:

For there was Joseph, standing tall
And gazing down with care
Upon his blessed Mary and
The baby lying there.

"A wondrous child!" the shepherds cried
In voices of delight.
"See there — around shines a strange
And heav'nly looking light.

Sophia

How warm and bright it seems against
The coldness of this night!
He surely is the one we seek;
The angel's words were right!"

To Mary and to Joseph and
To everyone they saw
The shepherds told the story that
Had filled them with such awe.

"This baby is the Promised Prince,
The Mighty Lord, the King
We know because tonight we heard
The holy angels sing.

They told us that this blessed child
Of low and humble birth
Was truly Christ, the Son of God,
The Savior of the earth!"

The news was spread from town to town.
The whole world must be told
Till every person rich or poor
Or young or very old,

Has heard about the coming of
The Savior of all men,
Whom God has sent to earth because
Of His great love for them

Song by Children ... *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky.
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

Recitation by Children

Danahlia

Now listen, my children, I'll tell you
The reason we have Christmas morn—
It was for the cross and Eastertide
That our Lord Jesus Christ was born.

He came here to love and to teach us.
He came here to heal and to pray.
But most of all the Messiah came
To die on a cross one day.

For we all have hearts that are sinful—
We have broken God's heart in two.
And only the death of our Savior
Can give us a life that is new.

But do no forget the story's end—
Christ did not remain in the grave!
He rose again on Easter morn
And He lives to love and save!

Blakely

So come now, my children, be joyful.
Celebrate this day with great cheer.
For Jesus was born on Christmas morn,
As a gift for all, far and near!

Song by Congregation ... *Once He Came in Blessing*

Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Offering

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

P Thank you, Lord, for sending these children, your precious messengers, to bring your Word to us this day. May we respond in praise and thanksgiving for your amazing grace in a manger—our Savior, Jesus, as we spread this good news wherever we go. Amen.

Benediction

P May Jesus, God's amazing grace in a manger, open your eyes, crush your fear, protect your coming and going, instill in you the hope of eternal life, and tune your voices to sing his praises this Christmas and forever and ever. Amen.

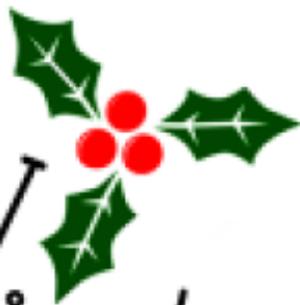
Song by Congregation ... *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing,

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Merry
 Christmas